

scale until it ends in a piercing scream, after which the bird is silent for some minutes. One result is that in cover it is difficult to localize the bird, as it appears to approach at each call.

190 *a.* *SYRNIUM NEWARENSE* (Hodgs.).

A beautiful specimen of this fine Owl was collected at Chinteh.

203 *a.* *SPILORNIS CHEELA* (Lath.).

Two obtained near Chinteh.

319 *a.* *GALLINAGO GALLINULA* (Linn.).

The Jack Snipe is a rare bird in China, and most birds reported as such prove to be merely small Common Snipe. It was therefore a pleasure to be presented with a veritable "Jack" shot at Taitsan, near Shanghai, on 10th April.

*Note.*—Chinteh lies on the south bank of the river, 15 miles inland of Tungliu, a small city close to the border of Kiangsi, which is marked on most maps. It will be observed that 12 of these species came from the hills in this neighbourhood, and show a very close relationship between its avifauna and that of Fohkien, lying directly south. In the latter province all the above, except the *Syrnium* and *Urosphena*, are common.

XXI.—*On Birds from West China.* By F. W. STYAN.

(Plate IV.)

IN June 1896 my two native collectors left Hankow by steamer for Ichang, in Hupeh, about 1000 miles from the mouth of the Yangtse. Thence they proceeded, on the south of the river, about 100 miles to Patung, close to the border of Sechuen, in which neighbourhood they remained, among wooded hills of moderate height, until the end of September. The season was very wet and the results were indifferent. The specimens collected were mostly of common species in poor plumage, the following being the most interesting :—

TROCHALOPTERUM ELLIOTI Verr.

BABAX LANCEOLATUS (Verr.).

YUHINA DIADEMATA Verr.

HODGSONIUS PHÆNICUROIDES (Hodgs.).

NOTODELA LEUCURA (Hodgs.).

An adult female and immature male were brought me from the neighbourhood of Ichang, which doubtless belong to this species; it is impossible, however, to be absolutely certain until an adult male has been secured, as the bird has not hitherto been met with in China.

*N. montium* Swinhoe is, so far as we know, confined to Formosa.

CULICICAPA CEYLONENSIS (Swains.).

CRYPTOLOPHA TEPHROCEPHALA Anders.

SITTA SINENSIS Verr.

EMBERIZA GODLEWSKII Tacz.

THAUMALEA PICTA (L.).

Examples of all these species had been previously sent from the same district, where they appear to be fairly common.

ÆTHOPYGA DABRYI (Verr.).

A good series of this brilliant Sunbird was collected for me in this district on a former trip, but on this occasion only one was obtained. The natives say they are plentiful in spring, when the peach-orchards are in blossom.

DENDROCOPUS PERNYI (Verr.).

A single specimen obtained—the only one I have ever handled, though Père David describes it as not very rare in Sechuen. Dated 31st July; in moult. Iris noted as red.

Returning to Ichang, the collectors started on November 2nd northward through Hupeh, passed through the south-western corner of Honan, crossing the great Tsing Ling range near the western border of that province, entered Shensi, and arrived at Si-ngau-fu on December 2nd.

About three months were spent in this district, where Wang, the head collector, was more or less at home, having

hunted here along with the indefatigable Père David, nearly twenty-five years previously.

Trips were made to various likely places to the west and south-west on the flanks of Tai-pei-shan (the Great White Mountain), a high peak of the Tsing Ling range. Bitter cold and very heavy snow were experienced, and for eleven days they were confined in a mountain hut, half-starved, and unable to do any shooting: this, according to the local natives, was an interpolation by the mountain deities, who resented the approach of strangers with firearms. The district yielded some good birds, among which were:—

MERULA RUFICOLLIS (Pall.).

RUTICILLA HODGSONI Moore.

TROCHALOPTERUM ELLIOTI (Verr.).

IANTHOCINCLA LUNULATA Verr.

A single pair only was obtained.

RHOPOPHILUS PEKINENSIS (Swinhoe).

A single skin only. This species was obtained in the same district by Père David, but appears to be a rare bird.

CINCLUS PALLASI Temm.

ANORTHURA NIPALENSIS (Hodgs.).

Four specimens were collected in this district, and nine in N.W. Sechuen. There is considerable variation in colouring and spotting, and the Shensi examples seem to be intermediate between *A. nipalensis* and *A. fumigata*, as noted already by Père David (Ois. de la Chine, p. 226).

PARUS PALUSTRIS L.

ACREDULA FULIGINOSA (Verr.).

*Acredula glaucogularis* Gadow, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. vol. viii. p. 65.

I have also obtained specimens of this Tit from the neighbourhood of Ichang. It is difficult to understand how it could have been confused with *A. glaucogularis* by anyone who had read the careful and accurate description by David and Oustalet, Ois. de la Chine, p. 292.

TICHODROMA MURARIA L.

ANTHUS SPIPOLETTA (L.).

A single specimen killed in February.

ACCENTOR MONTANELLUS (Pall.).

LANIUS SPHENOCERCUS Cab.

A fine typical adult, shot in January.

PYCNORHAMPHUS CARNEIPES (Hodgs.).

One specimen only, in December; met with in Kansu by Przewalsky.

EMBERIZA GODLEWSKII Tacz.

A widely-distributed species in Western China.

FREGILUS GRACULUS (Linn.).

A common bird in the mountains of West China.

Nine Shensi specimens vary in length of wing from  $10\frac{1}{2}$  in. to 12 in.; four from Sungpan (N.W. Sechuen) vary from  $12\frac{1}{4}$  in. to  $12\frac{3}{4}$  in., and the greater bulk of the body in the latter is equally marked. This large form is probably *F. himalayanus* Gould.

GEVINUS GUERINI (Malherbe).

DENDROCOPUS CABANISI (Malherbe).

ITHAGINIS SINENSIS (David).

It was in this district that the species was first discovered by Père David. A good series was obtained, the killing of which was the chief cause of the local deities' anger.

IBIDORHYNCHUS STRUTHERSI Vigors.

A common bird among these mountains; but, being short of cartridges, my collectors did not kill many.

GALLINAGO SOLITARIA (Hodgs.).

One killed in December.

The two collectors left this region on 22nd March, 1897, and, travelling southwards *via* Han Chung, reached Lung An, in the N.W. corner of Sechuen, about the end of April. Until January 1898 they hunted in this extreme corner of China, shifting their quarters from time to time. The country is entirely mountainous, and is described by Mr. A. J. Little

as forming part of the Tibetan Plateau; many parts are covered with dense forest, very thinly populated.

In a report of a journey to these parts written by Mr. G. J. L. Litton, of H.M. Consular Service, the approximate limit of trees is given as 11,000 feet; the elevations given below are quoted from the same source.

The following spots were selected as collecting-grounds:—  
Lung An, 3100 feet.

Ho-chia-ko, about 15 miles north of Lung An and probably much higher.

Sungpan, about 100 miles W.N.W. of Lung An, 9500 feet. The surrounding country is much higher, perpetual snow is in sight, and the pass at the head of the valley, from which rise the headwaters of the Min and Fou rivers, is 13,000 feet.

Tung-pei, 20 miles S.W. of Sungpan and much higher. The inhabitants are mostly Tibetans, and the place must be on the very borders of Tibet.

Yang-liu-pa, about 100 miles S. of Sungpan. Fine forests and evidently high elevation.

Ho-chia-san, further south and within 65 miles of Cheng Tu, the capital of Sechuen.

The district of Moupin, famous as Père David's collecting-grounds, lies somewhere on the Tibetan border, a little south of where my men worked.

#### *RUTICILLA FRONTALIS* (Vig.).

Tung-pei, November. Upper parts of the specimens much suffused with brown.

Suiyang (Kweichow province), March. Very little brown above in examples from this locality.

Examples of this species have also been sent to me from near Ichang.

#### *RUTICILLA SCHISTICEPS* (Hodgs.).

Five examples from Sungpan and Tung-pei, October and November.

#### *TROCHALOPTERUM CINEREICEPS* Styan.

Lung An, December; not previously recorded from so far west. Identical with specimens from the extreme east.

## TROCHALOPTERUM BLYTHI Verr.

Lung An and Yang-liu-pa, December; Ho-chia-san, January.

Described as a familiar bird and sometimes common, but only a few examples were brought back.

## IANTHOCINCLA MAXIMA Verr.

A good series from Sungpan and Tung-pei, October, November, and December.

A familiar bird, frequenting the neighbourhood of houses.

## IANTHOCINCLA ARTEMISIÆ David.

Yang-liu-pa, December.

A scarcer and more difficult bird to obtain; shot among small forest-growth at high elevation.

## BABAX LANCEOLATUS (Verr.).

Lung An, December.

Apparently not common, as only one was brought back.

## PTERORHINUS DAVIDI Swinhoe.

Sungpan, October and November.

## CINCLUS PALLASI Temm.

Two specimens from Lung An and Yang-liu-pa and four others from Shensi province did not strike me at the time of labelling as differing from our Yangtse birds; but I now see that David considers his birds from Moupin to be *C. asiatica*, and perhaps mine should be referred to the same species.

## CINCLUS CASHMIRIENSIS Gould.

One only from Sungpan, October.

## PNOEPYGA ALBIVENTRIS (Hodgson).

Lung An, December; a single specimen, labelled ♂. The spots on the back and ground-colour of lower parts are golden buff.

## YUHINA DIADEMATA Verr.

A fairly common bird throughout Sechuen.

## YUHINA GULARIS Hodgs.

A single specimen; Yang-liu-pa, December.



1

2

J.G. Keulemans del. et lith.

Mintern Bros. imp.

1. PROPARUS FUCATUS ♂  
2. SCHÆNIPARUS VARIEGATUS ♂

ALCIPPE DAVIDI Styan.

Lung An, December.

MOUPINIA PÆCILEOTIS (Verr.) : Sharpe, Cat. B. vii. p. 630.

*Pyctorhis gracilis* sp. nov., Styan, Bull. B. O. C. 1899, no. lix. p. xxvi.

A single specimen from Lung An, December.

This interesting species has, I think, hitherto been only known from specimens collected by Père David, an inspection of which proves my supposed new *Pyctorhis* to be identical. In general appearance the bird closely resembles *P. altirostris*, but can be distinguished generically by its more slender build, comparatively shorter wing, and the absence of the marked rictal bristles which are conspicuous in *Pyctorhis*.

PROPARUS RUFICAPILLUS (Verr.).

Lung An, December; Ho-chia-san, January.

PROPARUS STRIATICOLLIS (Verr.).

One only; Tung-pei, November.

PROPARUS CINEREICEPS (Verr.).

PROPARUS FUCATUS. (Plate IV. fig. 1.)

*P. fucatus* sp. nov., Styan, Bull. B. O. C. 1899, no. lix. p. xxvi.

These two very similar species may be dealt with together. Of the former, one only was brought back from Yang-liu-pa; of the latter, nine were obtained on a former trip in the neighbourhood of Ichang. The single specimen agrees exactly with specimens in the British Museum and with the figure in David and Oustalet's 'Oiseaux de la Chine,' pl. 73. The differences between the two may be tabulated as follows:—

	<i>P. cinereiceps.</i>	<i>P. fucatus.</i>
Head . . . . .	Grey.	Earthy brown.
Back . . . . .	Rufous.	Deep chestnut.
Rump, flanks, and under tail-coverts . . . . .	Olive.	Bright rufous.

LEPTOPÆCILE SOPHIÆ Severtz.

Sungpan, November. Found in small parties among brushwood; very active.



## LOPHOBASILEUS ELEGANS Przew.

Two labelled ♂, in plumage of ♀, probably young; Tung-pei, October. They were shot in a fir-tree, and are described as quiet birds, sitting motionless on a branch and occasionally springing into the air after insects.

## PARUS MONTICOLA Vig.

Yang-liu-pa, June, August, and November.

## PARUS PALUSTRIS L.

Tung-pei.

## PARUS BEAVANI Blyth.

A single example; Tung-pei, October.

## SITTA PREZWALSKII Berezovsky &amp; Bianchi.

Two specimens of this near ally of *S. leucopsis* were killed at Tung-pei in November. Originally discovered in Kansu.

## TICHODROMA MURARIA L.

Sungpan, October; Lung An, December.

## MOTACILLA HODGSONI Gray.

Yang-liu-pa, June; Lung An, Sungpan, November; Ho-chia-san, January.

## ACCENTOR RUBECULOIDES (Hodgson).

Sungpan, Tung-pei, November.

## PERICROCOTUS BREVIROSTRIS (Vig.).

An adult and a nestling; Yang-liu-pa, June.

## ÆTHOPYGA DABRYI (Verr.).

Yang-liu-pa, June.

## PYRRHULA ERITHACUS Blyth.

A pair shot off the nest in August, Yang-liu-pa. Unfortunately I stowed away the eggs, which numbered four, without measuring or describing them; but I remember they were pale bluish ground-colour with dark scratchings—more of the Hawfinch type than that of our common Bullfinch.

## CARPODACUS DUBIUS (Przew.).

Tung-pei, Sungpan, October.

CARPODACUS PULCHERRIMUS (Hodgs.).

*C. davidianus* Milne-Edwards.

Tung-pei, November.

ACANTHIS BREVIROSTRIS (Gould).

Two from Sungpan, November.

EMBERIZA ELEGANS Temm.

Yang-liu-pa, August, November, December; Lung An, November, December; Ho-chia-san, January.

Found by Père David at Moupin. Seems to be a common breeder in Sechuen.

EMBERIZA GODLEWSKII Tacz.

Sungpan, Tung-pei, November.

EMBERIZA MELANOPS Blyth.

*E. melanops* Blyth; Szyan, Ibis, 1891, pp. 353-354.

One from Yang-liu-pa, June.

This species is generally confused with *E. spodocephala* Pall.

CALANDRELLA BRACHYDACTYLA (Temm.).

A single example from Sungpan, September.

SPODIOPSAR SERICEUS (Gm.).

Lung An, June, November, December. This must be about the extremity of its range westward, where, from the dates, it appears to be resident.

NUCIFRAGA HEMISPILA Vig.

One from Yang-liu-pa, June.

HYPOPICUS HYPERYTHRUS (Vig.).

One female from Lung An (January) appears to be of this species rather than the eastern form *H. poliopsis*, which, however, it resembles in the dull colour of the underparts.

CHALCOCOCCYX MACULATUS (Gm.).

A pair of this brilliant Cuckoo was shot in June at Yang-liu-pa, but the female unfortunately was lost. Their note was described to me as a feeble whistle.

COLUMBA RUPESTRIS Pall.

One from Sungpan, September.

## COLUMBA LEUCONOTA Vig.

Two from Sungpan, November.

## TETRASTES SEVERTZOWI Przew.

Two killed at one shot, while feeding in the snow; Sungpan, November.

## PERDIX SIFANICA Przew.

Sungpan, October; Tung-pei, November.

## CROSSOPTILON AURITUM (Pall.).

Tung-pei, October, November.

## PHASIANUS ELEGANS Elliot.

Sungpan, October; Tung-pei, November.

## ITHAGINIS SINENSIS David.

Tung-pei, October, November; Yang-liu-pan, August, September.

## PUCRASIA DARWINI Swinhoe.

None were actually obtained during this trip; but on a former occasion one was sent me from near Ichang, dated 8th September, in a stage of plumage which deserves attention. Although in most respects resembling a fully-adult bird, it shows no trace of the broad chestnut band which in the full-plumaged bird extends down the centre of the body from the throat to the vent. At first I was led to believe it to be of a new species; but specimens from Fohkien, kindly lent by Messrs. Rickett and La Touche, show that it is merely in an intermediate stage of plumage. Six specimens killed in winter show the chestnut band in process of development; in some only a trace is visible, in others more than half has appeared. The young cock doubtless resembles the female; at the autumn moult this plain plumage is assumed, and during the course of the winter the chestnut band gradually appears.

The young of *P. macrolopha* moults directly into the chestnut plumage.

## IBIDORHYNCHUS STRUTHERSI Vig.

Sungpan, November; Lung An, December.

The return journey was commenced in February by way of the Min river and Yangtse to Chungking. Thence a short trip was taken into Kweichow province, where Suiyang, about 50 miles from the northern border, was selected as a collecting-centre.

The avifauna of this district resembles very closely that of Anhwei, Chekiang, and Fohkien, a certain sprinkling of more western species being thrown in. Among the interesting birds met with were:—

TURDUS AURITUS Verr.

A single example killed in March; described as a fine songster.

RUTICILLA FRONTALIS (Vig.).

SUTHORA ALPHONSIANA Verr.

Apparently common.

STAPHIDIA TORQUEOLA Swinhoc.

SCHÆNIPARUS VARIEGATUS Styan. (Plate IV. fig. 2.)

*S. variegatus* sp. nov., Styan, Bull. B. O. C. 1899, no. lix. p. xxvi.

Eight specimens, shot in March and April. This species closely resembles *S. dubius*, from which it differs in its much less rufous upper parts, less vivid rufous crown, more olivaceous flanks and sides of breast, and blacker bill. It is intermediate between *S. dubius* and *S. (Alcippe) brunneus* (which lacks the white eyebrow), and is very close to *S. (Alcippe) genestieri* Oustalet (Bull. Mus. Paris, 1897, p. 210), with which, indeed, it may prove to be identical. The latter, however, when compared with a single skin of the present species, appeared to be more rufous and nearer to *S. dubius*. Provided that the present species is valid, we have four species known to occur in China, viz. *S. genestieri*, *S. variegatus*, *S. brunneus*, and *S. olivaceus*.

CRYPTOLOPHA RICKETTI Slater.

Known hitherto only from Fohkien; a single one shot.

MOTACILLA HODGSONI Gray.

*ANTHUS ROSACEUS* Hodgs.

A single example.

*PROPASSER VINACEUS* (Verr.).

*AQUILA CHRYSÆTUS* (Linn.).

A handsome specimen, labelled ♂, but from its size more probably ♀. Wing 25 in.; tail 14 in.

In April this district was left, and the hunters, returning to Chungking, made their way by river to Hankow, arriving in May, just two years after the start.

XXII.—*Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.*

Nos. LVIII.—LX.

No. LVIII. (December 31st, 1898).

THE fifty-seventh Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 21st of December, 1898. *Chairman*: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S. Twenty-five Members and nine guests were present.

Mr. ERNST HARTERT characterized three new species of birds from the Louisiade Archipelago. He said that this group of islands, situated to the south-east of New Guinea, had been visited by Macgillivray during the voyage of H.M.S. 'Rattlesnake,' when a few birds had then been collected, and that more recently Canon Tristram and Mr. De Vis had described a few new forms from various islands of the group, but no large collections of birds had ever been made there. Mr. Albert S. Meek had recently stayed on various islands of the group and collected a great number of birds for Mr. Rothschild's Museum. His collections showed that the proportion of species and subspecies peculiar to this group of islands was rather large, and that the various islands were inhabited by different forms. A few new species had already been described at former meetings of this Club, but exhaustive articles would soon appear on the collections in the 'Novitates Zoologicae,' and were partly in the press. Examples of the following new species were exhibited:—